

PATENT

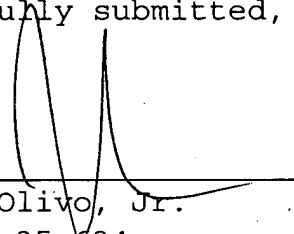
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 168-273 represent a patentable contribution to the art and the application is believed to be in good condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 25, 2001



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